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part, it was unanimously resolved to constitute the proposed organization with the object of drawing together the members of the medical profession in the inter-allied countries with a view to promoting intercourse and cooperation for the promotion of medical science and public health.

A general committee was nominated, and Sir Arbuthnot Lane was appointed honorary treasurer, and Sir St. Clair Thomson, Mr. Douglas Harmer and Mr. J. Y. W. MacAlister honorary secretaries (*pro tem.*).

#### THE PRODUCTION OF QUICKSILVER IN 1918

THE domestic output of quicksilver in 1918, according to statistics compiled by F. L. Ransome, of the United States Geological Survey, Department of the Interior, was 33,432 flasks of 75 pounds each, valued at the average quoted market price at San Francisco (\$117.92 a flask) at about \$3,942,301. Compared with the output of 1917 of 36,159 flasks, valued at \$3,808,266, this shows a decrease in quantity of 2,727 flasks but an increase in value of \$134,035.

The productive states were California, Texas, Nevada, Oregon and Idaho, named in the order of decreasing importance.

The production of California was 23,231 flasks, against 23,938 flasks in 1917, a decrease of 707 flasks. As usual of late years, the New Idria mine, with which is included the San Carlos mine, yielded nearly half of the total output of the state. Only one other mine in the state, the New Almaden (including the El Senador mine), produced over 2,000 flasks in 1918. New Almaden has produced to date about 1,124,100 flasks and in 1865 alone produced 48,138 flasks from ore that yielded 11.3 per cent. of quicksilver. In total production New Idria, with 315,434 flasks to the end of 1918, ranks second, and Oat Hill (Napa Consolidated), with about 140,000 flasks, comes third. Sulphur Bank nearly trebled its output of the previous year and probably would have made still larger gains were it not for the fact that the high sulphur content of the ore renders furnace treatment and condensation difficult.

In general, quicksilver mining in California maintained fairly well during the year the revival of activity due to the war, as indicated by comparison of the output (33,432 flasks) with the production of 11,303 flasks in 1914. A large number of mines that were formerly productive have remained idle, however, and with the gradual return to normal conditions other mines are likely to revert to this class.

The output of quicksilver in Texas was 8,475 flasks, against 10,791 flasks in 1917. The Ellis mine, near McKinney Springs, considerably increased its output, and the Mariposa mine also made a small gain. The output of the Chisos mine, however, declined, and that of the Big Bend showed a still larger falling off. The Big Bend has been nearly exhausted down to the level of the underground water, so that pumping and additional development will be necessary if any considerable output is to be maintained. Prospecting has been continued by the Rainbow Mining Co., on the westward continuation of the Chisos ore zone, and some ore is reported to have been found.

#### SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

DR. WILLIAM N. LOGAN, professor of economic geology in Indiana University, was appointed state geologist by Governor Goodrich on January 1.

PROFESSOR NELLIS B. FOSTER, now lieutenant-colonel in the Medical Corps of the United States Army, has presented his resignation as professor of medicine and dean of the school of medicine of the University of Michigan, as he expects to be detailed to the military service for an indefinite period.

DR. A. HOYT TAYLOR, professor of physics at the University of North Dakota, now a lieutenant commander in the Navy, has resigned after a year's leave of absence and will continue his work at the Bureau of Standards on naval radio communication.

MAJOR LAWRENCE MARTIN, general staff, U. S. Army, on leave of absence as associate professor of physiography and geography in the